

Let me emphasize that I mean no implication other than an error of judgment. We all make mistakes. I am guilty of having launched some worse ones than the above, as elsewhere acknowledged. We must all work to clarify our horde of published records, if we want to make them of service in our study of geographic distribution and variation, if our conclusions are to be sound. It is very easy to put a mistake into print, but pitifully difficult to suppress it, as many of us know who have traced quoted errors through decades of literature.—JOSEPH GRINNELL, Pasadena, California.

The American Scoter, Limpkin, and Ipswich Sparrow in South Carolina.—In the A. O. U. Check-List for 1895, the range of the American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*) is given as "south in winter to New Jersey, the Great Lakes, Colorado and California." Dr. Eugene Edmund Murphey has given me permission to announce the capture of a male of this species which he secured on May 7, 1903, in Bulls Bay. The specimen is in very worn plumage, so much so that many of the primaries and rectrices are skeletonized, which shows that it undoubtedly wintered here. This record makes the first for South Carolina, and according to the A. O. U. List, the first for the Atlantic coast south of New Jersey. This specimen is now in my collection.

I am also indebted to Dr. Murphey for the privilege of recording the capture of two Limpkins (*Aramus giganteus*) that were taken at Twiggs Dead River, Aiken County, South Carolina. One of them, an adult male was taken by Mr. W. H. Twiggs, October 18, 1890, and preserved by Mr. George P. Butler, of Augusta, Georgia. This specimen is now in my collection. The negroes on the plantation told Mr. Twiggs that there had been a pair of the birds, but that they had killed and eaten one a few days before. This record is a very important one, as the Limpkin has not been taken before in any part of the United States except in Florida. In 1894, I found this species breeding abundantly on the Wacissa River, Florida, which brought its range to within eighteen miles of the Georgia line. (See 'The Auk,' October, 1895, p. 366.)

On December 26, 1905, I secured a fine specimen of the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) on Long Island, South Carolina, and on January 2, 1906, I shot another on the same island. Both specimens were moulting the feathers about the pileum and auriculars. As these were the first specimens I had ever seen in their natural environment, I determined to explore Bulls Island, which is covered along almost the entire length (ten miles) with wild oats (*Zizania miliacca*), which is well adapted to the wants of this bird. On January 8, 1906, I hunted the island most thoroughly, but among the hundreds of Savanna Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*) that were everywhere I could not detect a single *princeps* among them. Upon exploring a bleak and isolated spot fronting the beach (where the Savanna Sparrow was absent) I saw three *princeps* together and succeeded in securing two of them that day—the other being so

very wild that it was lost among the sand hills. In order to satisfy myself that the bird I failed to get would remain, I made another visit on February 9, to the island, and after searching for more than three hours I succeeded in flushing and finally securing it. All the specimens taken are females. The winter of 1906 has been the mildest since the winter of 1889-90, and the presence of these birds on this coast is not due to a rigorous season, but to the absence of the food supply. For previous records of the capture of this species in South Carolina by the writer, see 'The Auk,' April, 1902, p. 203.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Tagging Migrants.—In accordance with the scheme outlined in 'The Auk,' XXI, p. 410, I have been placing aluminum tags upon the tarsus of nestling birds, and have induced others to follow my example in the work. This past spring several field workers have been using tags supplied by me and this winter the first result has been attained.

May 29 Mr. Chas. Kirkpatrick of Keota, Keokuck Co., Iowa, tagged a nest of half grown Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) near his home. Dec. 25 Mr. J. E. Ross took No. 123 of this series at Many, Sabine Co., Louisiana. The bird was not saved but I secured the tag from the collector and have identified it as one of my issue.

This single success shows what might be expected if the work was more generally prosecuted by ornithologists in the field. The amount of labor it entails to bend bands around the legs of a brood of nestlings is insignificant in comparison with the value of the results that may be achieved if but a very small percentage of the so marked birds ever turn up again. Many of the problems of ornithology can be solved only by some such line of work. Exact data on the age of different plumages, length of life of birds, individual routes of migration and the distances traveled by individuals, are but some of the problems that must be so attacked. To avoid confusion of having several series of tags in use at once it is advisable for one person to issue them,¹ only stipulating that, at the end of the season, a list of the tags so used, the species thus marked, and the date and place, be furnished me to be kept as a matter of record, and to have the benefit of two records to guard against loss of notes through accident.—P. A. TAVERNER, *165 Oakland Ave., Detroit, Mich.*

Notes from Hancock County, Mississippi.—On January 1, 1902, a specimen of Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) was taken by W. B. Allison and the writer, in a low meadow cleared from the pine woods near Bay St. Louis. It was in fine plumage and good condition. Another was seen in the same place on February 11, 1902. These two are the only Mississippi records.

¹ The tags are inexpensive and I will gladly distribute them to those desirous of carrying on the work.